

MINUTES – MAY 3, 2010

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2010. Members present: George W. Ward, Jr., Chairman, Kenneth D. Travis, Vice-Chairman, Erik D. Battle, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies, and Gordon G. Satterfield. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Michael R. Ferrell, County Attorney, and Angela Evans representing The Caswell Messenger. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Ward opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Ward stated that he would like to move Item No. 8, Administrative Office of the Courts Inspection Report, to Item No. 7 on the agenda. Commissioner Hall stated that he would like to add Alamance-Caswell LME as Item No. 12 on the agenda.

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the agenda as presented, with Administrative Office of the Courts Inspection Report being moved to Item No. 7 and Alamance-Caswell LME being added as Item No. 12. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Satterfield to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2010 Regular Meeting and April 26, 2010 Special Meeting
- 2) Financial Report – July 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010
- 3) Hyconeechee Regional Library Contract for FY 2010-2011
- 4) Tax Director's Monthly Report

Total Amount of Taxes Collected for March, 2010	\$ 423,683.61
Tax Maps/Cards	\$ 68.00
County Maps	\$ 29.70
NSF Charge	\$ 268.00
EMS Collections	\$ 1,826.31
2010 Prepayments	\$ 3,590.85

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ward opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Donna Pointer came before the Board and stated that she was there as a private citizen, a user of the Caswell Senior Center, and as Director of the Caswell Senior Center. Ms. Pointer added that she was present to urge the Board of Commissioners to leave the Senior Center open to those 55 years of age and older, with some programs having other age requirements. Ms. Pointer informed the Board that she was present to urge the Board to allow the staff the ability and flexibility to make decisions on age requirements. Ms. Pointer stated that some grants have conditions of age, some instructors have conditions of age, and they need the ability and flexibility to make those decisions as they have for the last nine years. Ms. Pointer noted that evidently they have made good decisions as evidenced by the number of people present tonight. Ms. Pointer stated that the Senior Center is well used by a diverse group of people from different areas of the County who have different needs, abilities, and values, and they do value the friendships they have made with other seniors across the County, they value the services that are offered, and they value the activities and opportunities that are offered, and they do this because they feel safe and secure at the Senior Center. Ms. Pointer informed the Board that May is celebrated across the nation as National Older Americans Month and the national theme is *Age Strong Live Long* and Governor Beverly Perdue recently issued a Proclamation urging all senior groups, civic groups, and governmental agencies to recognize the importance of active aging. Ms. Pointer noted that North Carolina's older population is supposed to double by the year 2029, and felt that Caswell County's older population would probably do the same. Ms. Pointer stated that it is imperative that the County be prepared for this and that they recognize and celebrate the value and contributions of the senior population of the County and allow them to enjoy their senior years at the Caswell Senior Center.

Mr. Bobby Pearson came before the Board and stated that he and his wife live near Milton. Mr. Pearson added that he and his wife fell in love with Caswell County in the mid '90's, retired and moved to the County to live the remainder of their lives. Mr. Pearson noted that his wife then became sick with cancer, which is currently in remission, but it has paralyzed her left lung, she will be on oxygen the rest of her life, her left arm is paralyzed, has limited use of her legs, her heart is failing, and she has a total dependent pacemaker which is not working correctly and is causing fluid buildup. Mr. Pearson informed the Board that he is telling them this because every minute he has with his wife is precious to him and they are limited to the things that they can do because almost all of the things that they had planned to do when they grew old have been taken away from them. Mr. Pearson stated that of the things that they can do, he is trying to give his wife as active a life as they can possibly have within their limitations, and one of the blessings that they have is the Senior Center. Mr. Pearson added that something as simple as his wife being able to go to the restroom by herself at the Senior Center is important to them because he cannot take his wife just anywhere. Mr. Pearson urged the Board not to take the Senior Center away from them and stated that he is not anti-children, but seniors have different views and values, and want to be around people of their own age group. Mr. Pearson pleaded with the Board not to take the Senior Center away from the seniors because there are so many places for people to congregate, but there is a limit to the number of places that seniors can go and feel that they belong and feel comfortable.

Mr. Sandy Warren came before the Board and stated that he retired from his job last summer, started coming to the Senior Center in November, and there are not many week days that he has not been there since. Mr. Warren added that he has never seen a facility run as efficiently as the Senior Center or seen friendlier people, and he has never felt more welcome anywhere. Mr. Warren informed the Board that he has been very active at the Senior Center and participated in activities and everyone who attends the facility gets a lot of good fellowship there. Mr. Warren stated that if the Senior Center was not run the way it is by staff, he did not know that it would be as efficient, and with different age groups there he did not think that the seniors would feel as welcome. Mr. Warren added that seniors go there daily, and the bottom line is, they do vote.

Ms. Alice Robinson, of NC Hwy 86, Yanceyville, NC came before the Board and stated that she is a strong advocate of children, but she is present tonight representing senior citizens, who are concerned about SSC (Social Security Check) and SC (Senior Center). Ms. Robinson added that after 45 years of working with children, she was exhausted and needed a safe haven and the Senior Center has provided that. Ms. Robinson informed the Board that since coming to the Senior Center her artistic talent has returned. Ms. Robinson stated that some time ago she stood before the Board and let them know how important it was to her and everyone present that they could have a place to call their own, and she is here again asking the Board to let them continue to have a place to call their own, because at the Senior Center she is around those her age and above, and she feels at home and relaxed. Ms. Robinson urged the Board to not take this privilege away from the seniors, and leave the Senior Center a safe haven for her and the other senior citizens.

Ms. Lea Thompson came before the Board and stated that the last time she was before the Board she could get up and did not have a cane as now, but as her health continues to fail, she cannot go to the places that she used to go. Ms. Thompson added that when she was previously before them, the Board graciously allowed them to have a Senior Center and determined the location of it, as well as who could use it. Ms. Thompson informed the Board that she has to be careful where she walks, has osteoporosis and when she falls, it results in a break. Ms. Thompson urged the Board to please leave the Center as it is so that she can enjoy it, as well as the other people who are present.

Chairman Ward informed the group that the Senior Center is not an item for discussion on the agenda tonight, but he would like to appoint a Committee consisting of two Commissioners, County Manager, the Senior Services Director, and Senior Center Advisory Board Chairperson to research and present to the Board some rules and guidelines. Chairman Ward stated that he would like for this to be presented to the Board of Commissioners no later than its first meeting in June in order for consideration of approval by the Board. Chairman Ward appointed Commissioners Battle and Satterfield to serve on this Committee.

Chairman Ward questioned Ms. Donna Pointer, Senior Services Director, as to whether there has ever been a Procedure, Policy, or Guidelines adopted by the Board of Commissioners governing the use of the Senior Center, and Ms. Pointer answered that she was not aware of any policies governing the Senior Center that have been adopted by the Board.

Chairman Ward stated that the Board would also consider the issues of the Senior Center sign and parking lot paving when the Committee reports back to the Board.

RECESS

The Board held a brief recess.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Chairman Ward recessed the Board of Commissioners and convened the Board of Equalization and Review.

Ms. Wanda Smith, Clerk to the Board, administered the following Oaths of Office to the Caswell County Board of Equalization and Review.

Oath of Office
Caswell County Board of Equalization and Review

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as a member of the Caswell County Board of Equalization and Review, and that I will not allow my actions as a member of the Board of Equalization and Review to be influenced by personal or political friendships or obligations.

S/George W. Ward, Jr.
George W. Ward, Jr.

S/Kenneth D. Travis
Kenneth D. Travis

S/Erik D. Battle
Erik D. Battle

S/William E. Carter
William E. Carter

S/Nathaniel Hall
Nathaniel Hall

S/Jeremiah Jefferies
Jeremiah Jefferies

S/Gordon G. Satterfield
Gordon G. Satterfield

Mr. Thomas Bernard, Tax Director, came before the Board and stated that Mr. Lonnie Johnson has requested to appear before the Board of Equalization and Review concerning the value of his property. Mr. Bernard added that Mr. Johnson is contesting that the value of his property as assessed by Caswell County in its 2008 valuation is too high. Mr. Bernard informed the Board that the value placed on Mr. Johnson's property during the 2008 valuation which went into effect on January 1, 2008, is \$108,467. Mr. Johnson submitted to the Board a copy of an appraisal of his property which had been conducted on May 20, 2009, that placed a value of \$100,000.

Mr. Michael Ferrell, County Attorney informed the Board that the Tax Office has determined a value of property as of January 1, 2008, and it is the burden of the taxpayer to convince them that the value placed on his property by the Tax Office on January 1, 2008 was in error.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall, Mr. Ferrell clarified that the law allows the taxpayer to state that the Tax Office has made a mistake in the year of the reappraisal, but any adjustment now would be effective only for tax year 2010 and forward until the next reappraisal.

Mr. Johnson reported that he has two parcels of property of which he is contesting the value. Mr. Bernard informed the Board that he did not have the information available on the second parcel.

Chairman Ward directed Mr. Bernard to meet with Mr. Johnson this week, get all of the exact information needed on both parcels, and bring this back before the Board at its next meeting for further consideration.

Mr. Bernard informed the Board that Ms. Shirlene Gray has requested to appear before the Board of Equalization and Review concerning the value of her property. Mr. Bernard stated that Ms. Gray is present to contest the value of her property, \$279,235, as assessed by Caswell County in its 2008 valuation. Ms. Gray stated that she has had her property on the market at a listing price of \$249,900 for some time and has had no offers.

Mr. Michael Ferrell, County Attorney, noted that it is the burden of the taxpayer to demonstrate to the Board that on January 1, 2008, her property was not worth \$279,235. Mr. Ferrell added that the fact that the real estate market fell after that date does not prove that the value placed on the property on the valuation date was incorrect.

Ms. Shirlene Gray stated that she would like for the Board to consider lowering the value of her property, consisting of 2.95 acres, to \$240,000 because she has had it on the market from June 18, 2008 to June 30, 2009 at a price of \$249,900, and could not sell it.

Mr. Bernard recommended that the value of the property of Ms. Shirlene Gray remain as assessed by the Caswell County Tax Department.

Mr. Bernard informed the Board that Mr. Joseph Cesari has requested to appear before the Board of Equalization and Review concerning the value of his property. Mr. Bernard stated that Mr. Cesari is present to contest the value of his property, \$85,123, as assessed by Caswell County in

its 2008 valuation. Mr. Bernard added that this property was foreclosed on by the bank on January 5, 2009, and was put up for sale at \$72,000, and on July 28, 2009, Mr. Cesari purchased this property for \$55,000. Mr. Cesari presented an appraisal that was conducted on the property on June 25, 2009.

Mr. Ferrell stated that generally a foreclosure is not considered a comparable sale, and added that a subsequent sale by a bank trustee could be considered a comparable sale, but that it generally is not considered so because the bank's motivation in selling is different from the normal seller of real estate.

Mr. Cesari requested that the value of his property be lowered to \$72,000.

Mr. Bernard recommended that the value of Mr. Cesari's property remain at \$85,123, as assessed by the Caswell County Tax Department.

Mr. Bernard informed the Board that Mr. Robert Schultz has requested to appear before the Board of Equalization and Review concerning the value of his property. Mr. Bernard stated that Mr. Schultz is present to contest the value of his property, \$324,831, as assessed by the Caswell County Tax Department. Mr. Schultz was present with two appraisals that had been conducted on his property. Mr. Schultz informed the Board that the original appraisal in 2005 valued his property at \$277,000, an appraisal conducted on May 21, 2009 valued his property at \$270,000, and an appraisal conducted on March 20, 2009 valued his property at \$275,000.

Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to why he did not contest the value of his property in 2008, Mr. Schultz answered that he called the Tax Office concerning the value and was told that he was too late and would have to wait until this year to contest the value.

Mr. Bernard stated that he would have Mr. Schultz come to his office and bring the two appraisals for his review.

Commissioner Hall voiced his displeasure with the process and stated that he did not feel that anyone should come before the Board that the Tax Director has not worked with and reviewed the information. Commissioner Hall added that if the Tax Director has requested information and they did not provide it, they should not be on the agenda. Commissioner Hall stated that the taxpayer should be placed on the agenda after the Tax Director has reviewed their request and information.

Mr. Michael Ferrell, County Attorney, stated that the taxpayer does have the right to come directly to the Board of Equalization and Review. Mr. Ferrell added that it would be a better process if taxpayers presented their cases to the Tax Director prior to meeting with the Board of Equalization and Review, but if they fail or refuse to do so, they still have a right to come directly to the Board of Equalization and Review.

There being no further business, Chairman Ward recessed the Board of Equalization and Review until May 17, 2010, and reconvened the Board of Commissioners.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS INSPECTION REPORT

Mr. John I. Satterfield, Clerk of Superior Court and Mr. Ford Heath, with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts, came before the Board to discuss the Courthouse Inspection Report. Mr. Satterfield informed the Board that in December, 2009, he was asked to tour the Courthouse with Mr. Evan Sloan, Safety and Health Specialist, with the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Branch. Mr. Satterfield stated that as a result of that tour and inspection, a written report and recommendations were prepared and submitted to the Board. Mr. Satterfield added that Mr. Ford Heath with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts is present to explain why this tour and inspection was conducted and to answer any questions or concerns of the Board.

Mr. Ford Heath, Risk Manager for the Judicial Branch, NC Administrative Office of the Courts, informed the Board that they are responsible for the safety and health of their court employees across the state. Mr. Heath stated that within the 100 counties there are 7,000 employees which are staff for the State's Judges, District Attorneys, Clerks of Superior Court, and Public Defenders, and they are all housed in County buildings.

Mr. Heath stated that the Caswell County Courthouse currently "meets requirements" in an overall assessment of the security measures taken at the location. Mr. Heath provided examples of where the Courthouse exceeds requirements and where the Courthouse displays moderate to serious deficiencies that could possibly jeopardize the health and safety of the Caswell County Clerk of Superior Court staff members if not addressed. Mr. Heath informed the Board that the recommendations noted in the report are purposed for enlightening local County leaders regarding the possible environmental threats that are present in the Courthouse, which is the property of the County. Mr. Heath added that the suggestions should be taken with gravity, since these recommendations for improvement could be responsible for the prevention of liability factors that include serious bodily injury, OSHA fines, property damage/loss, or the loss of human life.

MATKINS MEAT PROCESSORS GOLDEN LEAF GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Joey Knight, Extension Service Director, came before the Board to present an update on the Matkins Meat Processors Golden Leaf Grant Project. Mr. Knight submitted and reviewed the following report.

"In the process of setting up a line item for income (.01/pound for meat processed at Matkins Meat Processors for livestock farmers using new value-added equipment). Checks will be made to Caswell County once per month.

Grand opening sometime in late June or early July, 2010 showing folks renovated processing rooms with newly installed value-added equipment. Field day will also display new products produced from the equipment as well as a meal provided that day from these newly produced products. Folks from Golden Leaf, Caswell County Board of Commissioners, Steve Troxler from NCDA, NCSU specialists and Dean, farmers from Caswell and other counties in North Carolina and Virginia, news media, businesses that sell local meats, North Carolina A&T State

University animal science extension specialists and Dean, etc. will be getting an invitational letter. (Mr. Knight noted that approximately 175 farmers are utilizing the Matkins Meat Processors facility, with 35 to 40 of those farmers being from Caswell County).

Farmers are directly marketing their products to local restaurants in the Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem areas, as well as other locations across the states of North Carolina and Virginia. Some products are starting to channel into Whole Foods Stores, Weaver Street Station, local meat markets and stores, as well as direct marketing efforts from the farmer's farms. All products are USDA inspected and meet all USDA standards.

Trying to set up a meeting with Bob Weston, Business Consultant with the Small Business and Technology Development Center at NCSU, to help improve business plan and new marketing strategies to promote the local food trend.

Working with Golden Leaf attorney Ted Lord on letter for the last piece of equipment purchased (Mado 70 SL Bowl Cutter w/unloader) that will be owned by the county and Jerry Matkins. This piece of equipment cost approximately \$90,000; therefore, Jerry Matkins paid the difference. Golden Leaf will be paying \$49,959.91 as a portion and Mr. Matkins has paid the difference to equal \$90,000. The \$49,959.91 is all that we have left in the grant of \$435,700 which we have spent on the value-added equipment. Jerry has spent over \$200,000 of his monies for wiring, construction of separate rooms for the smokehouse area, and other essentials (boiler, electronic computers and monitors) that have to be in place to meet USDA codes and Caswell County building codes and inspections. The following sheets explain the equipment purchased date, type of equipment, serial numbers which have been added to county equipment inventory, and the purchase price."

Mr. Knight provided the Board with a list of equipment purchased with the Golden Leaf Value-Added Grant for Matkins Meat Processors, Inc.

Upon questioning from Chairman Ward as to whether there is any tax base on this equipment, Mr. Knight answered that there is not since it is inventoried with the County.

Chairman Ward questioned Mr. Knight as to what is being done as far as marketing to attract some of the business that is going out of the County. Mr. Knight answered that they are working with NC State on developing a marketing plan. Chairman Ward asked Mr. Knight if Mr. Matkins is aggressively trying to get business that is going other places and Mr. Knight answered that he is doing this and they are looking at all avenues.

Commissioner Hall stated that it is his understanding that some of this equipment is actually being used and Mr. Knight answered that Mr. Matkins has started using the equipment this year. Commissioner Hall asked if anyone has been using any of the equipment for the last three months, and if so, has the County received commission checks. Mr. Knight answered that the equipment has been used in the last three months, but the County has not received any checks because the only equipment used has been the hog scalding, but he told Mr. Matkins that he needed to go ahead and start charging for this, and at least go back to April.

Commissioner Satterfield questioned Mr. Knight as to who he had told them would be monitoring this project to make sure that the County received its checks. Mr. Knight answered that Matkins Meat Processors is supposed to send the County a check and once the project is completed, the Extension Service will monitor it. Commissioner Satterfield stated that since the equipment is already being used, shouldn't someone be monitoring this so that the County receives its checks. Mr. Knight answered that he has NC State staff reviewing what Matkins Meat Processors has done and will make sure that the County receives its money. Commissioner Satterfield questioned whether anyone from the County is monitoring this project for checks and balances and Mr. Knight answered that there is no one from the County monitoring this project at the present time. Commissioner Satterfield stated that on behalf of the County, he is asking who is monitoring this project.

Chairman Ward stated that it was his understanding that the Extension Service and Finance Office was to monitor this project. Chairman Ward stated that he would like for the County Manager to review this contract and bring the information back to the Board at its next meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 15

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and discussed Budget Amendment No. 15 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Commissioner Satterfield requested that the County Manager explain the increase of \$1,600 for Conference and Travel Subsistence for the DJJDP/4-H YES Programs. Mr. Howard answered that he thought that this was because more Board members wanted to attend the conference this year, which caused an increase. Upon questioning from Commissioner Satterfield as to the amount of travel in that budget, Mr. Howard answered that he was not certain, but would find out and report this to the Board at its next meeting.

After further discussion, Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to approve Budget Amendment No. 15 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as presented. The motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Satterfield voting no.

BUDGET TRANSFER NO. 4

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented and discussed Budget Transfer No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Commissioner Satterfield questioned why 20% of the \$25,000 ARRA-DJJDP Gang Prevention Grant was going to food and provisions and who was receiving the food and provisions. Mr. Howard answered that he was not certain, but felt that it was for staff training, but would report back to the Board at its next meeting.

Commissioner Hall questioned the large increase of \$2,250 in telephone expenses for the Planning Department. Mr. Howard answered that there was a miscalculation in how much the department would need.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Satterfield moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to table Budget Transfer No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 until its May 17, 2010 meeting, pending further clarification. The motion carried unanimously.

RECESS

The Board held a brief recess.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, presented for the Board's consideration a *Code of Ethics for the Board of Commissioners of Caswell County, North Carolina*. Mr. Howard reported that during the last session of the General Assembly, a law was passed that requires Boards of County Commissioners to adopt a Code of Ethics. Mr. Howard noted that this is a model of the *Code of Ethics* as suggested by the School of Government.

Commissioner Battle questioned whether the Ethics training required for Boards of Commissioners should be included in this draft, and also others that the Board would require to take the training. Mr. Howard answered that this information does not need to be in the *Code of Ethics* unless the Board so desires, because this deals with Board conduct.

Commissioner Hall stated that he did not feel that the first paragraph of the Preamble, which reads as follows, is appropriate for what the Board needs to do or is necessary: "WHEREAS, the Constitution of North Carolina, Article 1, Section 35, reminds us that a "frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty". Commissioner Hall noted a number of corrections that need to be made to the Preamble. Chairman Ward requested that the County Attorney review and revise the *Code of Ethics*, to be brought back before the Board for further consideration.

ALAMANCE-CASWELL LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITY

Commissioner Hall referred to a letter written to Mr. Daniel Hahn, Executive Director, Alamance-Caswell Local Management Entity, from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services which concerns the balance of the life of the LME and has outlined what has to happen. Commissioner Hall stated that basically the Alamance-Caswell LME has to merge or dissolve by June 30, 2011.

Commissioner Hall read the following excerpt from the letter, "By July 1, 2010, Alamance-Caswell LME and its merger partner will indicate, in writing, their intent to merge, effective July 1, 2011." Commissioner Hall stated that to his knowledge this Board has not had such discussions, so he did not know how they would make that July 1 deadline.

Commissioner Jefferies informed the Board that the Alamance-Caswell LME is not planning to merge and plans to continue to stand as the Alamance-Caswell LME.

Commissioner Hall noted that the Alamance-Caswell LME did not become accredited and they asked for a waiver, with the State granting the waiver only because they would remain in existence for 15 months. Commissioner Hall stated that he did not feel that the Board should take this lightly.

Commissioner Jefferies stated that he could have Mr. Dan Hahn, Executive Director, come before the Board to explain this to them further.

Chairman Ward directed the County Manager to place this item on the Board's June 7, 2010 meeting in order for the County Attorney to be present.

Commissioner Hall suggested that Chairman Ward call Mr. Daniel Hahn to discuss this issue because time is of the essence.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, announced that Wednesday, May 19, 2010, is County Legislative Day in Raleigh and questioned which Commissioners would be attending. Chairman Ward suggested that the Board plan on attending County Legislative Day and having dinner with its legislators, if possible. Chairman Ward directed the Clerk to the Board to poll the Board members as to who would be attending.

Mr. Howard presented a request from Sheriff Welch in which he asked that the Board of Commissioners allow Major Henry Fleetwood to purchase his service weapon, a .45 caliber Glock, Model 21, Serial No. MDU316, for one dollar from the County as part of his retirement at the end of May, 2010. Upon questioning from Commissioner Hall as to the age of the weapon, Mr. Howard answered that he was not certain. After discussion, Commissioner Satterfield moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to approve the request by Sheriff Welch for Major Henry Fleetwood of the Caswell County Sheriff's Office, to purchase his service weapon, a .45 caliber Glock, Model 21, Serial No. MDU316, for one dollar, payable to the County, upon his retirement in May, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard reported that Mr. Michael Ramm purchased 50 acres behind the County's Industrial Park and is interested in acquiring a 50 foot access road to this parcel. After a number of questions, the Board agreed that additional information was needed. Commissioner Hall stated that the Board needs to find out what Mr. Ramm plans to do with the property and how it will impact the Industrial Park. Chairman Ward directed the County Manager to obtain additional information on this request to be brought back before the Board at its May 17, 2010 meeting. Upon questioning from Commissioner Battle, Mr. Howard answered that he could have Mr. Ramm come before the Board at its May 17, 2010 meeting and present his request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, announced that the Person-Caswell Lake Authority has issued an invitation to the Board of Commissioners to attend its Annual Hyco Lake Picnic to be

held on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyco Lake Recreation Park and Campground.

Mr. Kevin Howard, County Manager, announced that Monday, May 10, 2010, has been scheduled for the Board of Commissioners to tour the Montgomery County Detention Center.

Commissioner Hall questioned the County Manager concerning the status of the Piedmont Community College space request. Mr. Howard answered that PCC staff will be coming to the Board of Commissioners' meeting on June 7, 2010. Mr. Howard noted that tentatively, he has granted PCC permission to hold its law enforcement training at the former Senior Center building and the Recreation Department gymnasium. Commissioner Hall stated that it is his understanding that the training is already being held at these facilities. Mr. Howard noted that PCC moved into the former Senior Center building last Thursday.

Chairman Ward questioned whether the Animal Control Office has been moved to the former Senior Center building. Mr. Howard answered that the Animal Control Office will be moving into the former Senior Center building this month.

Commissioner Carter stated that a year ago the Board talked about it, but something still needs to be done about the microphone system in the Historic Courtroom so that the public can hear. Commissioner Carter added that members of the public have come up to him and told him that they cannot hear what the Commissioners are saying, and if the Commissioners would talk into the microphone they could be heard. Chairman Ward stated that the Board would discuss this during budget meetings.

Commissioner Hall referred to the information provided to the Board on inspections conducted by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of State Marshal, Training and Inspections, on all ten volunteer fire departments in the County. Commissioner Hall noted that all departments met minimum requirements and he would like for someone to come before the Board to explain the report. Chairman Ward directed the County Manager to have Mr. Vernon Massengill, Fire Marshal, attend the next Board meeting and explain the inspection report of the ten volunteer fire departments in the County.

THE ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Wanda P. Smith
Clerk to the Board

George W. Ward, Jr.
Chairman
